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New Jersey.

Message of the governor relative to the Stockton and Kearney Statues, to the legislature, session of 1872.

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MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR

RELATIVE TO THE

Stockton and Kearney Statues.

TO THE LEGISLATURE,

SESSION OF 1872.

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MESSAGE.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
TRENTON, February 21, 1872.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY:—An act of Congress, passed several years since, authorized the President of the United States to invite each of the States to furnish statues in marble or bronze not exceeding two in number, of deceased persons who have been citizens of such State, and illustrious for their historic renown, or for distinguished civic or military services, and when so furnished, the same to be placed in the old Hall of the House of Representatives in the Capitol of the United States, to be set apart as a National Statuary Hall.

On the 30th day of January, A.D. 1868, in response to an invitation from the President, the Legislature of the State of New Jersey passed the following concurrent resolution, viz:

"*Resolved*, That the names of Richard Stockton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and Major General Philip Kearney, late of the United States Volunteer Army, citizens of New Jersey, illustrious for their historic renown, be, and they are hereby designated as eminently worthy of national commemoration, whose statues in bronze or marble shall occupy the place reserved for New Jersey in the National Statuary Hall."

At the same session of the Legislature, the following joint resolutions were passed:

Joint resolutions relative to appropriations for procuring statues of Stockton and Kearney.

WHEREAS, by concurrent resolution of the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, unanimously passed on the thirtieth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, Richard Stockton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and Major General Philip Kearney, of the United States Volunteer Army, were designated as the illustrious Jerseymen eminently worthy of national commemoration, whose statues in bronze or marble shall occupy the places reserved for New Jersey in the National Statuary Hall at Washington.

1. *Be it resolved, by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey*, That the Treasurer of the State be authorized and directed to pay, under the direction of the committee hereafter selected, or a majority of them, the sum of ten thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be required to procure the statues above indicated, the civilian marble, the soldier bronze.

2. *And be it resolved*, That a joint committee of three from the Senate, and three from the House of Assembly, be appointed to carry out the object above contemplated. "The President of the Senate and Speaker of the House to be on the Committee."

On the 5th day of March, A.D. 1868, the Speaker of the House of Assembly presented the following communication, which was read and ordered to be spread on the minutes:

TRENTON, N. J., March 5, 1868.

Hon. Augustus O. Evans, Speaker of the House of Assembly:

SIR:—As chairman of the Soldier's Committee (appointed at a meeting in Newark, N. J., of volunteers late in the United States Armies) which have collected contributions for the purpose of procuring a statue of General Philip Kearney, U. S. V., I have the pleasure of informing the House of Assembly, that our treasurer, Major Alfred F. Sears, of Newark, N. J., has over one thousand dollars, which sum will be cheerfully passed over to the committee appointed by the Legislature as part of the sum necessary to carry out the object contemplated in the concurrent resolutions of this Legislature, passed January 30, 1868, and the joint resolutions just passed, associating the names of Richard Stockton and General Philip Kearney, as Jerseymen worthy of having their statues placed in the National Statuary Hall at Washington, D. C.

I have the honor to be very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
GEORGE B. HALSTED, Late U. S. V.
Chairman of Newark Committee.

The above are all the proceedings of the Legislature in reference to the subject that I find. I am informed that the committee was appointed, and that after making inquiry as to the probable cost of the proposed statues, it was ascertained that the appropriation was not sufficient, and no further action was taken. No part of the appropriation made has been drawn from the treasury.

On the twenty-first day of December last, Senator Morrill of the State of Vermont, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, addressed a letter on the subject to Senator Frelinghuysen of this State, which he forwarded to this department.

I transmit herewith the communications of Senators Morill and Frelinghuysen, and invite attention to their contents. Several of the States have already acted, and some of the statues are placed in the hall. An additional appropriation to carry out the object contemplated in the resolutions of eighteen hundred and sixty-eight is recommended. A State so rich in historic fame of her civilians and soldiers as New Jersey, should not suffer the place alloted to her in the National Statuary Hall to remain vacant.

JOEL PARKER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 21, 1871.

Hon. F. T. Frelinghuysen, United States Senate:

MY DEAR SIR:—May we not hope that the Governor and Legislature of your gallant State, will not let the present session of your Legislature pass without action with reference to placing the two statues of some of your most distinguished deceased citizens in the Old Hall of House of Representatives, already set apart by law for such contributions from the several States? Rich in materials, as New Jersey must be admitted to be, it is of some importance that a State, whose history is starred all the way from the time of the Revolution with names which still shed radiance on the whole country, should lead off in procuring appropriate works of art to commemorate the form as well as the virtues of some of her most illustrious dead.

Let me remind you, that there is no hall in the world superior in architectural beauty to, or that will hereafter be more conspicious, than that set apart for the patriotic purposes mentioned, and destined to become the Mecca of the American people.

I feel absolutely certain it will only be necessary for you to remind the generous State from which you come, that we yet miss her contributions here in order that it may soon fill its proper places, and which it will fill with so much honor to herself and sister States.

May I not urge your friendly offices, in the way of completing in the Old Hall, what has already been so happily begun, and what promises to be one of the greatest attractions of the National Capitol? With my high regard, sincerley yours,

JUSTIN S. MORRILL.

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,
WASHINGTON, January 13, 1872.

MY DEAR SIR:—Senator Morrill, of Vermont, has written me the enclosed letter, which I commend to your favorable consideration.

The Senator being Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, has taken an interest in having the several States send statues of two of their distinguished citizens, now deceased, to be placed in the Old Hall of the House of Representatives.

Let New Jersey, never second to any State in national duty, not be behind her sisters in her generous and appropriate contribution to the memorial gallery thus being created at the Capitol. Yours truly,

FREDERICK T. FRELINGHUYSEN.

To His Excellency the Governor.

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